

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	ORDER OF
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	SUMMARY SUSPENSION
)	
Certification of Sonya Lawson Majcher)	
)	
Certificate 145308)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2005. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Sonya Lawson Majcher, certificate 145308. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the pending criminal charges against Ms. Majcher, she may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students that may be under her instruction. After considering the information presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Ms. Majcher's certificate until a due process hearing is held, and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to send a notice to Ms. Majcher of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Majcher holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over nineteen years of teaching experience. Ms. Majcher is employed as a second grade teacher at Woodruff Primary School in Spartanburg County School District Four (District). The District placed Ms. Majcher on administrative leave after she was arrested on August 24, 2005, and charged with Possession of One-gram of Crack Cocaine and Careless Driving. On that date, Ms. Majcher

was stopped by police officers after she ran a stop sign. The officers smelled alcohol on Ms. Majcher and observed Ms. Majcher attempting to conceal something under the seat of her car. When asked to get out of the car, Ms. Majcher resisted and had to be forcibly removed and taken to the ground in order to restrain her. The officers subsequently found crack cocaine in Ms. Majcher's vehicle.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crimes against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Ms. Majcher may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under her instruction. Accordingly, the State Board hereby summarily suspends Ms. Majcher's certificate 145308 until a due process hearing is held, or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester
Paul M. Forrester
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 13, 2005